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15. That this meeting are most happy to renew their grateful acknowledgements to Samuel Mills, esq. the Chairman, for the liberality of principle, and the judicious propriety of conduct, which he has manifested on the present and former occasions.

15. That the able, indefatigable, and disinterested exertions of Thomas Pellatt, esq. and John Wilks, esq. the Secretaries to the committee, have procured for them the universal respect of this meeting and merit the unbounded approbation of all friends to Religious Liberty throughout the British Empire.

16. That these resolutions be communicated to the noblemen and gentlemen to whom they relate, and that they be printed, advertised in the newspapers, and circulated at the discretion of the committee; and that they be also requested to collect and publish all the proceedings which have occurred, that a record may remain to gratify contemporaneous inquiry and to excite and direct the efforts of future generations.

SAMUEL MILLS, Chairman.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCE.

LISBURN LANCASTRIAN FREE-SCHOOL.

The managers of the Lisburn Free-school present their townsmen with the plan and regulations of that institution, and earnestly appeal to their benevolence for its support. The subject of education has of late happily engrossed much of the public attention, and the advantages of disseminating its blessings among the poorer classes of society, have been so clearly demonstrated, not by theoretic reasoning alone, but by practical illustrations*, that any thing further said on the subject, would be superfluous.

The Free-school was opened on the 29th

* The benevolent Mr. Rakes, of Gloucestershire, England, has stated, that during a period of 20 years namely, since the first establishment of Sunday-schools in that country, about 3000 children received instruction, and though he regularly visited the city and country gaols, he has only met with one instance of criminality in these 3000 persons. In likemanner it is stated by Joseph Lancaster, that he has never yet learned that any one of 4000 children, whom he has educated in the Borough-road school, through taken from the lowest

of May, 1810, with 25 scholars—these in a few weeks increased to 60; and have since further increased to 115, their present number. They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic (had the managers a school-house sufficiently large, they could, with the same trouble, teach double the number) on the following plan, chiefly the invention of Joseph Lancaster.

The school is arranged into classes—each boy finds his own level, being promoted or degraded, from rank to rank, or class to class, according to his proficiency.

Each class has a monitor, and in some cases an assistant-monitor placed over it to keep all busy, and to teach, or rather see that the children teach each other, the lesson allotted for the class. The monitor wears a small medal by way of distinction, and is in general a smart boy, chosen from the next superior class to that over which he presides: While engaged in teaching, his time is not lost to himself, as some may suppose; on the contrary, it could not be employed more to his advantage: for, by enforcing the attention of others, he imperceptibly acquires a habit of attention himself, which materially advances his future progress.

A register of merit, and a register of daily offences are kept.—In the first, the names of such boys as distinguish themselves by diligence and good conduct, are daily entered: In the second, all accusations against boys, for transgressing the laws of the school, are registered: On the last day of the month, those whose names are found registered a stated number of times in the first, are rewarded with premiums: On Saturdays, those against whom accusations are found in the second, or black-book, as it is called, are tried by a jury of their peers, and punished according to their decision.

The whole school learn to spell from one book; this book is printed in a large classes of society in London, has been charged in any court of justice with any offence. Opposed to these statements, that of Sir Richard Philips, who when sheriff of London, ascertained, that out of 152 criminals then in Newgate, 101 could not write, and of the remaining 51, 26 could only write their name in a fair hand, and 25 in a scarcely legible hand. Might we not add, that the unhappy victims to offended justice in our own country, almost invariably pour out their last breath lamenting the want of early instruction!

type, on separate sheets, which are pasted on paste-board, and hung to the wall; round these the different classes assemble in semi-circles, and study their lessons, under the direction of their respective monitors. Thus, all are employed at once. When studying their lessons, if a boy mistake in spelling or pronouncing a word, it is not the monitor's duty to rectify that mistake, but to let the next boy do it, who, if he can, then takes precedence above the other; if he cannot, the next gets a trial, and so on, by which means, the attention of both monitor and pupil is engaged continually—neither can be idle a moment undetected, and constant emulation is kept up.

Another invention of Lancaster's, by which the scholars learn to write and spell at the same time, has also been lately adopted in the Free-School, and found a vast improvement. A class, say of 12 boys, being provided with slates and pencils, the monitor takes a spelling book, and pronounces a word aloud—every boy, then, as Lancaster justly observes, is obliged to listen attentively, to catch the sound of every letter as it falls from his lips; again, they have to retrace the idea of every letter, and the pronunciation of the word, as they write it on the slates. This commands constant attention, and prevents all idleness and talking, while the boys have great practice in writing, without it interfering with their other studies. When commencing to write, the scholars learn to form the written characters, as they had before the printed ones, in sand: afterwards they are provided with slates and pencils, and are classed in pairs, one to write against another—this classification contributes not a little to advance their progress, as it promotes constant emulation; each boy having his competitor beside him, exerts his utmost ability to excel him; and it is pleasing and amusing to observe the eagerness with which they show their copies, and the interest each takes in the decision on their merits.

Arithmetic is also taught on a new plan, invented by Lancaster, by which a boy, who knows nothing more of the science than numeration, can teach a class any rule as well as the most perfect master, and at the same time acquire a knowledge of it himself by teaching.—In this manner several classes are making a rapid progress.—Indeed the progress, that has been made by the scholars in general, fully evinces the excellence of the plan of

tuition adopted—it has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the managers, and will, no doubt, appear considerable, to all who reflect on the difficulties with which they had to struggle; being till lately (that they were admitted to the use of the Court-house, by the benevolent directions of the Marquis of Hertford) without any proper school-room, proper desks, or fund, except what they advanced themselves, and a few charitable donations presented by visitors to the institution.

Of the present scholars, about 70 had the alphabet to learn when they came to the school:—of these, one class can now read, spell words of five and six syllables off book, and write round hand pretty neatly; another class spell words of four syllables; and another of three syllables, can read easy lessons also, and write large hand on the slate; two classes spell words of two syllables, and are beginning to write; others spell words of five, four, three, and two letters, and print them in sand. Of the boys who had been previously at other schools, none but seven or eight were able to spell words of more than one syllable, when they came to the Free-school:—Of these, two classes now read the Scriptures with tolerable correctness, write round-hand very neatly, and are got as far as addition of money in arithmetic.

A few boys also who distinguished themselves by diligence and proper conduct, are making some progress in English grammar, the elements of which the managers intend teaching such as in like manner render themselves worthy of that distinction.

Rules of the Lisburn Free-School.

1. As the time the masters can devote to the school is but limited, every boy must attend punctually at the hour appointed, viz.—at 8 in the morning, and 5 in the evening in Summer—and 10 in the morning in Winter:—and in order that offenders against this rule may be promptly known and punished, each monitor shall call over a list of his class precisely at 5 minutes after the hour, and report the names of absentees.

2. Any monitor who, without sufficient reason, shall be absent when he should call over the list of his class, shall forfeit his rank.

3. A trusty boy shall be appointed to make inquiries after absentees, and any boy who shall be three times reported absent, without sufficient reason, shall be expelled the school.

4. Every boy shall have his hands and

face washed, and hair combed, before he comes to school.

5. No boy shall talk to his class-fellow, or make a noise in school.

6. No boy shall presume to contradict or argue with the monitor of his class, but shall yield the readiest obedience to his commands, keeping in mind that they are not his commands, but those of the masters, which the monitor is instructed to deliver.

7. Every monitor shall receive premiums in proportion to the pains he takes to improve and maintain good order in his class: and as it is particularly necessary that every monitor should be a lad of strict veracity, should any one be found guilty of telling a falsehood, he shall be degraded, and rendered ever after incapable of holding that rank.

8. No boy shall quarrel with his school-fellows, call nick-names, or use foul expressions.

9. No boy shall lie, swear, or take God's name in vain.

10. No boy shall play at ball, marbles, kammon, or any such game on the Sabbath-day.

11. No boy shall at any time play at "pitch and toss," attend cock-fights, or engage in any species of gambling, under pain of expulsion from the school.

12. No monitor, assistant, or pupil, shall, on any account, screen boys whom they may know guilty of transgressing the rules of the school; but shall faithfully report the same to the masters, under pain of being brought to trial (on discovery) for disobedience, and neglect of duty.

These rules are in general read and descanted on, on Saturdays, when the Black-book is examined. Sundays, the managers principally devote to giving the children Scriptural instruction, and, without touching on the tenets peculiar to any church or sect, they endeavour to inspire them with a reverent regard for the Holy Scriptures, and every thing that relates to religion; and to impress their young minds with a sense of the continual superintendence of the Deity; His hatred of evil actions; and their certain accountability for all they do or say at a future judgment. And through the blessing of him, in whom is "all strength and fullness," they trust their feeble exertions have not been altogether fruitless. Previous to the opening of the Free-School, the greater part of the scholars spent the Sabbath-day at improper sports in the fields, or in running through the streets,

disturbing the peace of the town, and offending every chaste ear with foul or profane expressions:—now they regularly attend divine service at their respective places of worship; nor would any boy in the school be seen joining in unbecoming diversions during the day. Many boys, too, who were shocking swearers when they came to the school, seem now to have acquired such an aversion to that shameful practice, that if they are obliged to complain of another being guilty of it (which seldom happens, except it be against a new scholar), they will not mention the expressions, but spell or make some allusion to them!

Such are the benefits which have already resulted from this infant institution—benefits which the superintendants doubt not will forcibly plead for its support, with the benevolent and humane. They will perceive from the foregoing statement, that the success of the plan of tuition adopted, principally hinges on the system of emulation and rewards:—of the latter, any that have yet been dispensed, have necessarily been of a trifling nature; but the managers venture to hope, that they will be enabled to present a few of the most deserving of the scholars with some articles of clothing at the commencement of winter; in this particular, many persons who have families, could materially benefit the institution at a small pecuniary expense, by sending donations of their children's left-off clothes, &c. to the school-house, or to either of the managers, by whom they will be most thankfully received.

It is gratifying to remark, that while the male children of the poor have been thus admitted to a share of education, the female are not likely to be excluded. The girl's-school, founded by some young ladies in August last, consists at present of upwards of fifty scholars, who are taught reading and spelling in the Lancastrian manner, and also useful needle-work:—and the progress they have made, sufficiently evinces the attention paid to them by their benevolent patroness: several having already got through Lancaster's Spelling-book, though part of their time was necessarily devoted to needle-work. What, however, particularly strikes the attention of visitors of this institution, is the extreme cleanliness of the little girls, habits of which necessary and too much-needed virtue among the Irish poor, the ladies judiciously encourage, by appropriating premiums to that purpose.

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